

**National Park Service
Gettysburg National Military Park
Centennial Challenge Proposal**

Rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge

Key Points: The National Park Service, in partnership with the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation, would rehabilitate some of the most historically significant land on the Gettysburg battlefield by removing the current visitor center building, the Cyclorama building, the parking lots and roads associated with these two buildings, removal of overhead power lines, and re-establishing the historic landscapes at the center of the Union army's battle line in July 1863.

Background:

- NPS has long-term agreements with the Gettysburg Foundation, which requires the Foundation to raise \$125 million to construct new visitor facilities at a site two thirds of a mile from the current visitor facilities in an area where there was no major battle action.
- The Gettysburg Foundation's campaign includes rehabilitation of the center of the Union battle line, historic Ziegler's Grove, and other prominent features on Cemetery Ridge, as well as providing expanded educational opportunities for the public.
- The project area is 43.5 acres, containing historic houses, barns, fences, stone walls, and orchards, as well as commemorative features including more than 70 civil war monuments, seven of which will be relocated to their historic locations, where they had been placed by veterans of the battle, but had been subsequently moved during the construction of the Cyclorama building.
- The project also includes removal of 6,700 feet of intrusive power lines along the historic Taneytown Road corridor from Steinwehr Avenue to the horse trail crossing south of Granite School House lane. The power lines will be placed underground.
- Removal of modern intrusions, built between 1931 and 1962, is made possible by the opening of the park's new museum/visitor center complex in 2008.
- The Foundation's *Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg* has already raised \$95 million.
- Mr. Robert Wilburn, former President and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is the Gettysburg Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer.
- The project is a major initiative of the park's 1999 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

Current Status:

- The total project cost for the rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge is \$9,588,694. The Gettysburg Foundation will provide \$7,000,000. The NPS is requesting \$2,588,694 from Congress.
- A Cultural Landscape Report was completed in June 2004 including site history, existing conditions, analysis & evaluation, as well as treatment plan recommendations.

August 23, 2007